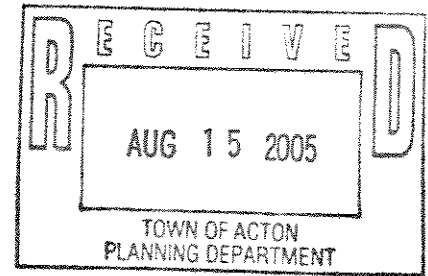


Susan Mitchell-Hardt
328 Pope Rd.
Acton, MA 01720



August 11, 2005

Dear Mr. Charter,

It has come to our attention that five shade trees near the intersection of Pope and Brabrook Roads are targeted for removal. The stated purpose of the removal is to improve sight lines in order to make the intersection safer.

We the undersigned, believe that removal of the trees will have no impact on safety at the intersection. Instead, we believe that the primary safety issue there relates to excessive vehicle speed combined with the lack of visibility from the rise in the road immediately prior to traveling past Brabrook toward Great Road. Neither problem will be alleviated by removing trees. Short of flattening the rise it is our opinion that measures to keep traffic at or below the posted 30 mph limit (and perhaps a reduction to 25 on that section) would be far more effective than removal of irreplaceable trees.

We also note that the Pope-Braebrook intersection falls within the East Acton Village planning area. The EAVPC discussed traffic mitigation extensively and traffic calming on Pope Road was the primary means to improving safety. Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., a traffic engineering firm hired for the committee suggested "Install[ation of] a series of integrated traffic calming measures along the length of Pope Road at key locations, including signage and a raised crosswalk at intersection with Bayberry Rd. (page 54 of EAV Transportation Study). Also, the EAV plan states that "Results from surveys done in 2001 of Acton residents indicate that, to attract people to EAV, there would need to be an improvement in *aesthetics*, an increase in the landscaping, and additional open space and parks."

Unless the safety issue can be directly linked to the shade trees, it would be contrary to this plan to remove them from the EAV Planning Area

We are all concerned with safety, and feel that actions to control speeds on Pope Road are overdue. We hope you will take these points into consideration before taking the irrevocable step of removing shade trees from Pope Road. We also hope that you will take action to address the true source of the safety issues on this increasingly traveled road, which we believe have to do with traffic calming measures, aggressive speed limit enforcement and increased stop signage at key intersections.

Sincerely,

Susan Mitchell-Hardt

Lay Dawsey

100 Pop & RD

Mary Rita Spence

Chad & Muelin

Jim an

Clare & Hans

328 Regu Rd



cc: Board of Selectmen

Planning Board